

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph as an abstract of the disclosure:

The present invention provides a mutant *C. fetus* strain in which one or more *sapA* homologs are altered by an inserted DNA cassette so that the encoded S-layer proteins represent a chimera between the native S-layer proteins and a heterologous peptide encoded by the inserted cassette. Preferably, the heterologous peptide is an immunogen of a pathogen and the mutant strain can be used to immunize a host to develop mucosal and systemic immune responses to such immunogen.